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Ambassador to France

During his first three years in Paris, Huang had to settle a dispute over the degree of control the Embassy should exercise over the Paris branch of the New China News Agency (NCNA). During that period, Huang also traveled extensively in France, mainly to Lyons, Marseilles, Bordeaux and other areas with large Chinese communities.

Along with most other high-ranking Chinese diplomats, Huang was recalled to Peking in the spring of 1967, presumably for political reindoctrination connected with the Cultural Revolution. Official Chinese press sources did not report on his activities during the next two years, but foreign diplomats reported meeting with him in China in 1968.

After returning to Paris in 1969, Huang was noncontroversial and discreet, but not retiring. Active diplomatically and socially, he apparently was effective in making his country's viewpoint known on a wide variety of issues.

Huang was again in Peking between May and July 1970, attending a Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference on the Indochina situation and other foreign policy matters. On December 15, 1970, he completed negotiations with the then Chilean Ambassador to France, Enrique Bernstein Carabantes, for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Chile.

In October 1972, Huang headed his country's first delegation to the UNESCO General Conference in Paris. In February 1973, he attended the International Conference on Viet-Nam.

Personal Data

Observers have described Huang as an affable, expansive individual who has a sense of humor. Rank-conscious, he is proud that he is a general and allegedly disdains civilians. He is punctual for official appointments and appreciates that quality in others. He does not smoke or drink and criticizes his staff members who do so in his presence.

Huang has retained his interest in the fine arts since his early education. While on the Long March, he wrote two plays that were staged by the Red Army. He also made sketches of the army in the field, which were published in book form in 1962 under a pseudonym.

Huang is believed to speak some German, Indonesian, Russian and French, but he always uses an interpreter. He knows only a few words of English.

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Friday, May 25, 1973

Berthold Beitz came to see me this morning, accompanied by his son-in-law, whose father, a prosperous German businessman, we had known when posted in Germany. Beitz, at 59, has surprisingly not aged since I last met him ten years ago. He remains ebullient, vigorous, and good-looking. He has accumulated five grandchildren. He told me he had refused Brandt's offers of several Government positions, including the Embassies in Moscow and Warsaw, as well as one to serve as a Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Foreign Trade. He remains the dominant figure in the Krupp Foundation. We reminisced over our pheasant shooting on the Krupp properties at Essen. He said that Herr Krupp, a mild mannered, shy man, convicted for war crimes primarily because of the sins of his father, had died at 59 of lung cancer, probably induced by his daily consumption of 60 to 100 cigarettes.

We sent off a telegram this morning on the American journalists problem. It said:

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"1. It seems to me unnecessary, undignified, and unproductive for Department to be drawn into a post-mortem examination with AP and UPI of why the PRC Government did not accord visas for covering the opening in Peking of the USLO Mission. In retrospect, the newsmen of the two agencies, except for the natural desire, common to some thousands of foreign journalists, to visit China on any excuse, would have had, on this occasion, no real function to perform. I suspect that the PRC officials, a proud lot, did not welcome the prospect of comments on a non-event; there was nothing to be ceremonial about, since the physical structures designated for our permanent use were only partially constructed. Our temporary accommodations were adequate, but scarcely illustrative of what the PRC, which has made generous preparations for the Mission's future requirements, would have considered worthy of description.

"2. Moreover, it is quite possible that in the context of scattered criticism, directed against favoritism to the United States, by members of more normally established diplomatic establishments here, as well as by zombies like the Palestinian Liberation Movement, Yemenites and others, the PRC were disinclined to give especial publicity to our entry onto the scene; though privately they have been eloquent in making known the importance they attach to this quasi-normalization of our association with them.

"3. The whole question of pressures our Government might attempt to exercise on behalf of an expanded admission of representatives of American news media or indeed any other specific groups constitutes, in my opinion, a grave problem, not to be casually treated. Nor should it be assumed that the existing

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Monday, July 30, 1973

Today commenced for me with a call by the West German Chargé d'Affaires.

His biography is: "An 'old China hand,' Heinrich Roehreke, 63, was appointed Minister in February 1973. One of West Germany's top experts on the Far East, he has spent 16 of the past 20 years in Asia, including tours as Ambassador to the Philippines (1967-1969) and Minister of Embassy in Tokyo (1970-1973). He has also served in New Delhi, Bombay, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

"Roehreke was born in China, where his father was one of the owners of a large Hamburg-East Asian trading firm. As a young man, he had the opportunity to meet Chou En-lai, and he has apparently maintained some degree of contact with the Premier over the years. European-educated in law (London, Munich, Paris, Berlin), Roehreke returned to China in 1933 for private study and travels. Joining the Foreign Office in 1936, he spent the war years on assignment in China, serving in Manchuria, Shanghai, Kunming, Peking and his birthplace, Hankow. He was repatriated to Germany in 1947 and rejoined the Foreign Office in 1952.

"A reserved man, Roehreke conducts his affairs in a low-keyed manner. He has had a reputation for knowledgeability and fairness in his past assignments. Married to the former Irmgard Harriet Hempel, he has five grown children. Roehreke enjoys sailing. He speaks fluent Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, English, and French."

I have seldom met a diplomat so pleasantly discursive on Eastern affairs. While Ambassador to the Philippines, he knew Marcos well.

The English language was used by about 70% of the Filipinos, but Marcos felt nationalism would be stimulated by replacing

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it with the most familiar of native dialects, intelligible only to 20% of the population. This was a blow to unity.

the poor are apathetic about economics and politics. No peasant movements to overthrow the oligarchies by which they have long been governed have attracted well organized support. When hungry, they simply reach for another banana.

His mother is American. He had served in Japan, a country so dependent on the importation of raw materials to sustain its industrial momentum that they are forever condemned to seek new and secure sources of supply. They can never be self-sufficient as the Chinese are capable of being. Consequently, their miraculous material development is especially vulnerable to external pressures or disturbances.

He thinks China could continue in general its present policies for an indefinite period even after the deaths of Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai. The country is unified, the minorities are reasonably content over their autonomous relationships with the Central Government, and the people are not ripe for rebellion against a low but egalitarian standard of living. The State is now in loco parentis; it commands the allegiance of the masses. The traditional family system exists in a nationalized form. The obligations of filial piety are now represented by "Service to the People." In rural districts, family influence is strong, but is addressed to collective ends. Mao is not a pure Marxist or Leninist, he is a nationalist Chinese Communist. It is contradictory for him to accuse the Soviets so bitterly of revisionism, and abandonment of

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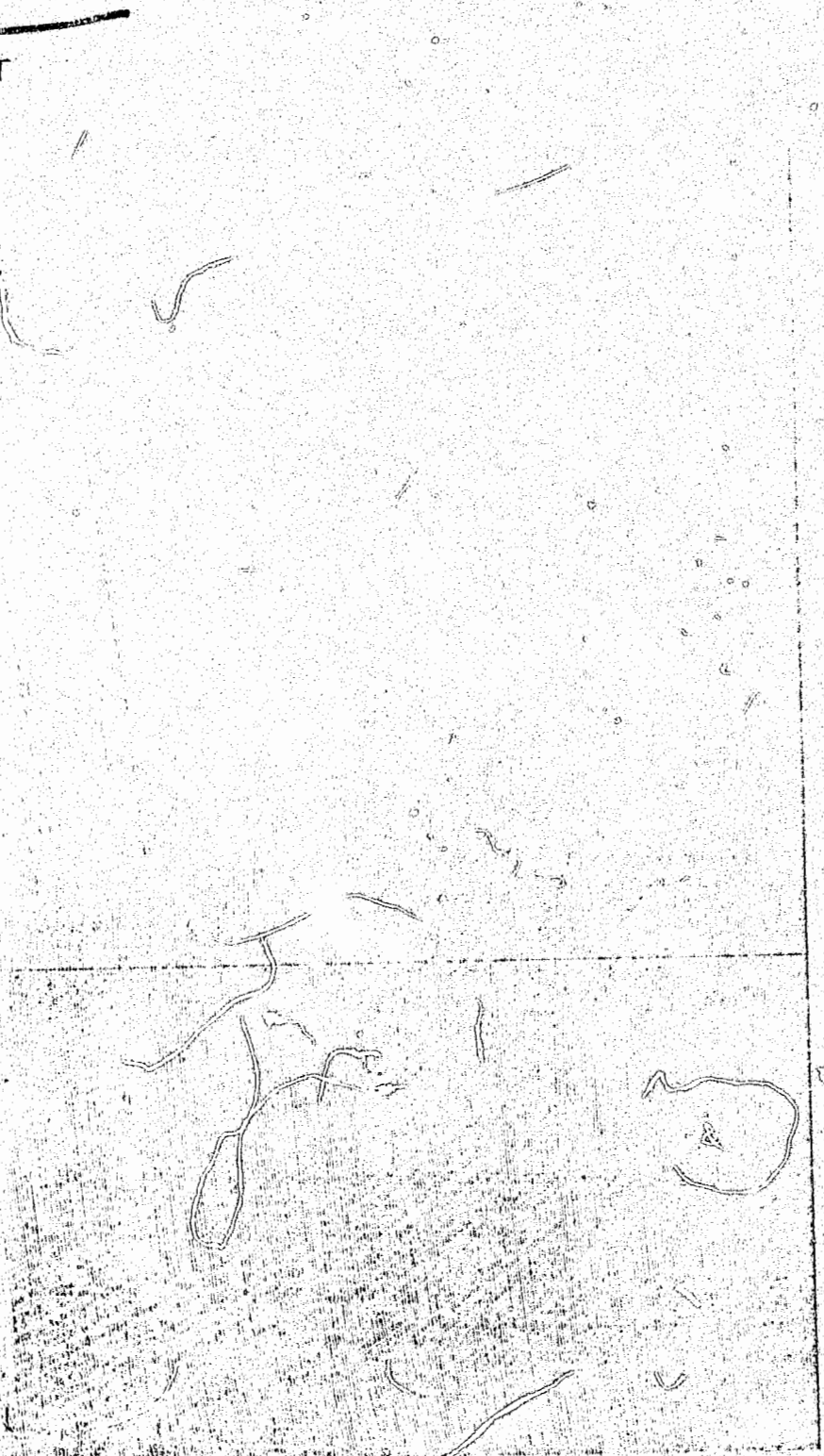

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Recently, Rogers when questioned on whether he would resign refused to reply, but did say he would not accept a diplomatic post or appointment as a Supreme Court Justice. He is a decent individual, personable, attractive, honorable, Henry's two-hatted responsibilities will be enough to destroy the physical and mental reserves of most men. However, at the age of fifty, he shows no evidence of fatigue or debility despite an almost unprecedented working schedule. The only public figure who seems to match him in that respect is Chou En-lai, his senior by twenty-five years, who continues an arduous life style but is said occasionally to show signs of weariness.

This shift will be of great significance at home and abroad. The majority of officers in the State Department, whose morale is said to be at its nadir, will probably welcome it in the hope their influence on policy making may be enhanced. HAK has often expressed his suspicion of the bureaucratic intrigues, and lack of discipline, in that agency. I imagine heads will fall, but at least there will be action. There is much unused ability and loyalty at State, ready and anxious to be galvanized by a strong personality.

I sent telegrams to Bill Rogers and to HAK expressing happy wishes for their futures.

Two days ago, Sihanouk gave a press conference at his Peking palace in which he said the insurgent forces in Cambodia had diverted their attacks on Phnom Penh to provincial centers and garrisons in order to acquire more ammunition before a final assault on the Capital. With a laugh, after referring to capture of armament from Government sources, he commented: "We rely on Nixon; Nixon gives ammunition to Lon Nol and Lon Nol--not voluntarily--gives

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until the Prime Minister pointed out to me that it was due more to our ignorance than to its mystery. But it was above all because we knew that the normalization of relations between China and the United States was essential for the peace of the world. We set ourselves then the task of moving forward with determination toward the normalization of relations, toward establishing friendly relationship between the people of the United States and the people of China."

~~The Messenger said~~ "As before, the Foreign Minister pointed out, we have made good progress, we have Liaison Offices in each other's capital, and have increased exchanges between our two countries. But we are determined to do much more and to complete the process that we started two years ago as rapidly as possible."

The menu was: Hors d'oeuvre, chicken consomme with mushroom, crisp rice with three delicacies, fried duck and fish rolls, bean curd cream with preserved vegetables, chicken with ginger, compote of silver agaric, pastries, and fruits.

Sunday, November 11, 1973

At ten thirty this morning, Henry and I closeted ourselves with [illegible]. He told me many interesting particulars, especially about his negotiations in the Middle East, his views and personal plans for the future, the political atmosphere in Washington, his recent dealings with Soviet officials.

At three o'clock this afternoon, we met Prime Minister Chou En-lai at the Great Hall of the People. Much photography, before a four hour conversation between these two gifted men who so evidently enjoy their verbal interchanges, liberally larded with wit and humor.

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At the onset, after Henry had made an appreciative comment on Chou's ability as a statesman, the latter replied: "I think the credit should go to Chairman Mao —I have tried to learn from him, but I have not learned enough."

HAK initiated the discussion. He referred:

1. To our Marine Detachment. It was agreed to reserve talk on this topic for another occasion.

2. He outlined the symbolic aspects of Sino-American relations.

3. He stated that the greatest difficulty in our political relationship concerns the question of Taiwan. The existence of only One China was confirmed in the Shanghai Communiqué. We are firmly opposed to any independence movement. Chou asked about the Republic of China's existing Consulates in the United States.

We would discourage any belligerence by Taiwan. We are carrying out the withdrawal of our transport squadrons. In 1974, we will remove two squadrons of Phantoms, also U-2 planes and [redacted] weapons. This will reduce our presence there to communications and logistics.

We intend eventually to establish full official relationships with the PRC. He would be glad to listen to any Chinese proposals on the subject. Would be agreeable to location of U.S. trade or other institutions in China that you might think appropriate. Your Ambassador in Washington has freer access to high American officials than any other Ambassador there.

4. Our relations with the Soviet Union.

5. Ditto with Western Europe. (The Europeans, including Britain, had been far from cooperative in the Middle East crisis.)

6. The Middle East. He dwelt at considerable length on his activities in that field.

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In his toast, made without notes, last Tuesday night, HAK used two expressions that have been variously interpreted by newsmen. One was his assurance that the PRC could rely on continued friendship by the U.S. "whatever happens in the future and whatever the administration." Also, he is said to have said: "No matter what happens to the United States in the future, friendship with the People's Republic of China is one of the constant factors of American foreign policy."

My guess is that the confidence and friendly estimate entertained by Mao and Chou for HAK is a constant factor in Chinese foreign policy as it concerns the United States. If he were removed or were to drop out, I am sure they would be deeply disturbed. For us I think it would be a catastrophe.

After lunch, I went with Maureen to the tailor for a fitting of my embroidered dressing gown.

Tonight, we had a Thanksgiving turkey buffet supper for all members, and their offspring, of the Mission. Great fun--never a scowling face.

Thursday, November 22, 1973

Holiday. I spent it at the office.

Friday, November 23, 1973

Like Wednesday a half-day according to our schedule. Again I had many arrears of work so went to the office, until it was time for E., Don Anderson, and me to go to the airport to meet Ambassador Huang Chen and his wife who returned to Peking for an indefinite stay. They are a sympathetic couple.

In the morning, I saw the Danish and Canadian Ambassadors, J. A. W. Paludun and John Small, who, in separate questioning, sought information about HAK's visit.

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Robert de Billy telephoned me this morning from the Peking Hotel. He is on the same trip as Martine. Unfortunately, they are leaving this afternoon so we shall miss this witty friend, so esteemed by us in old Paris days.

This morning, I talked to representatives of the Dresser Corporation who are competing with the Hughes Tool Co., the Bates Co., the Reed Co., and perhaps others for orders to sell mineral drilling bits to the Chinese Government.

Brunson returned today. He was astonished by the profusion of antique objects he had seen while accompanying the American archaeological group whom he served as escort officer. He believes the soil of China will continue to yield up almost countless treasures, mostly preserved in unviolated tombs.

He brought back as a present to E. a graceful bamboo bird cage, and for me a splendid black lacquered walking stick.

Tonight, E., Kisty, and I dined at a Mongolian Restaurant, the Minzu, with Lois and Gerd Ruge. We had never been there before. It was the best dinner we have had in Peking.

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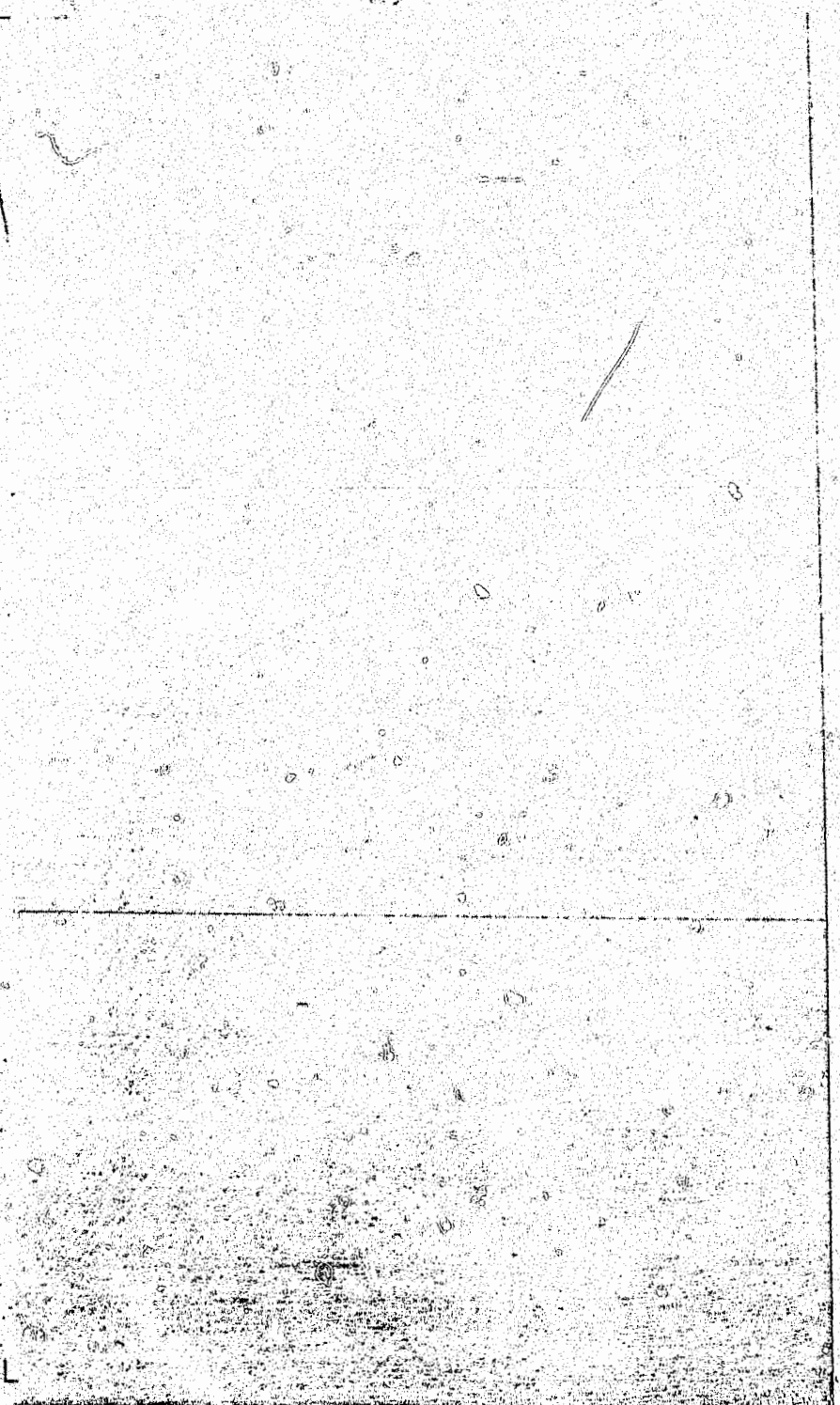

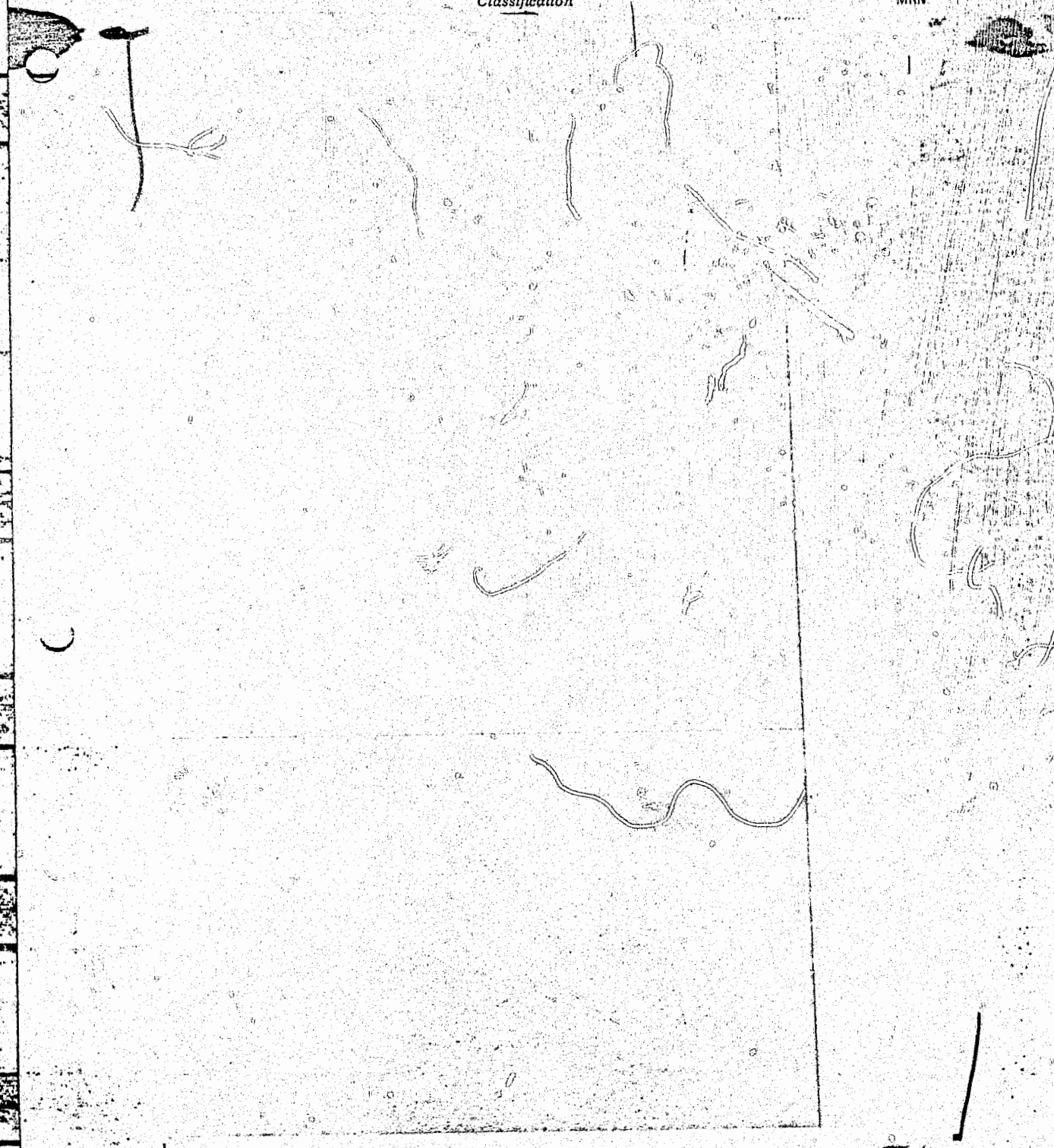

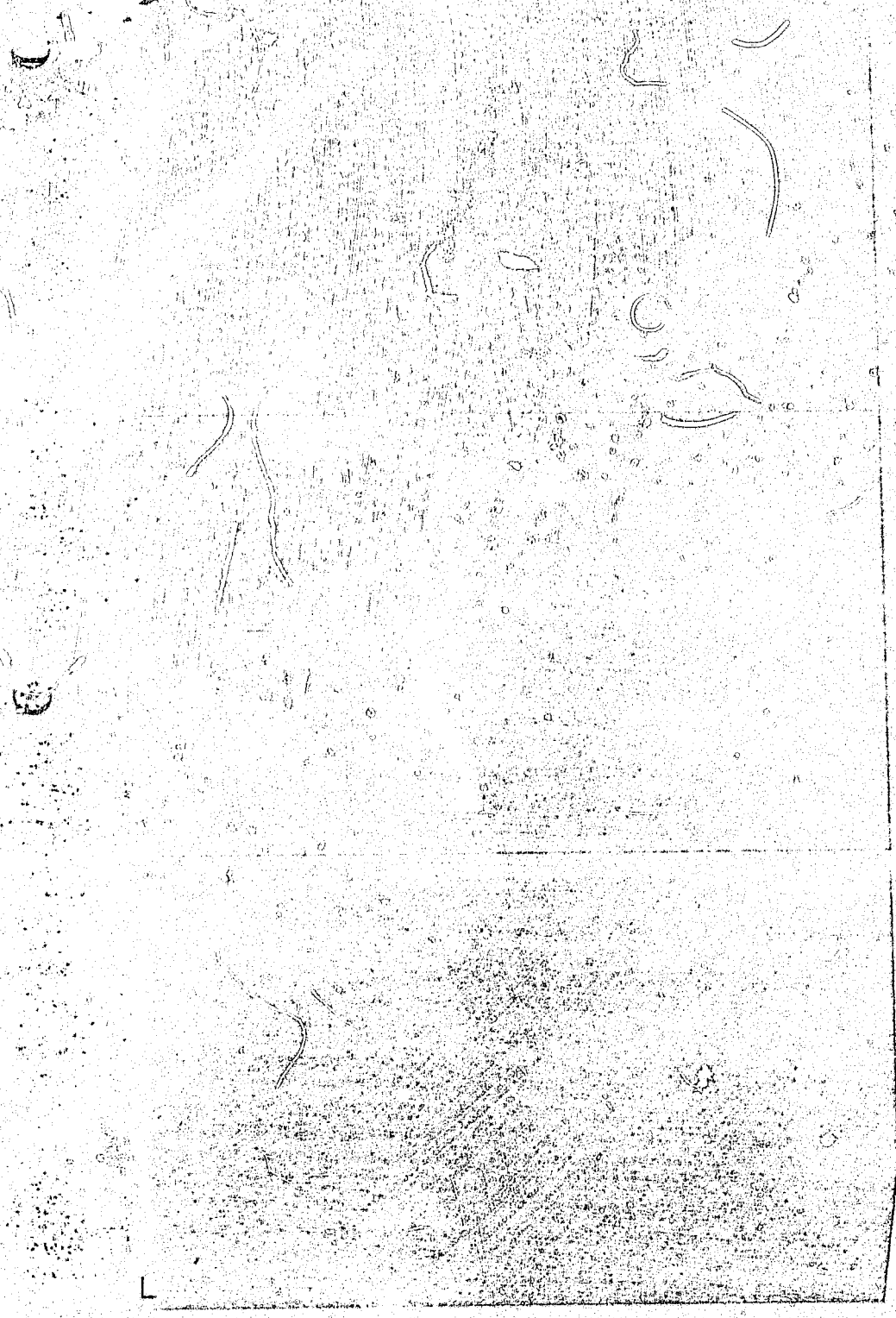

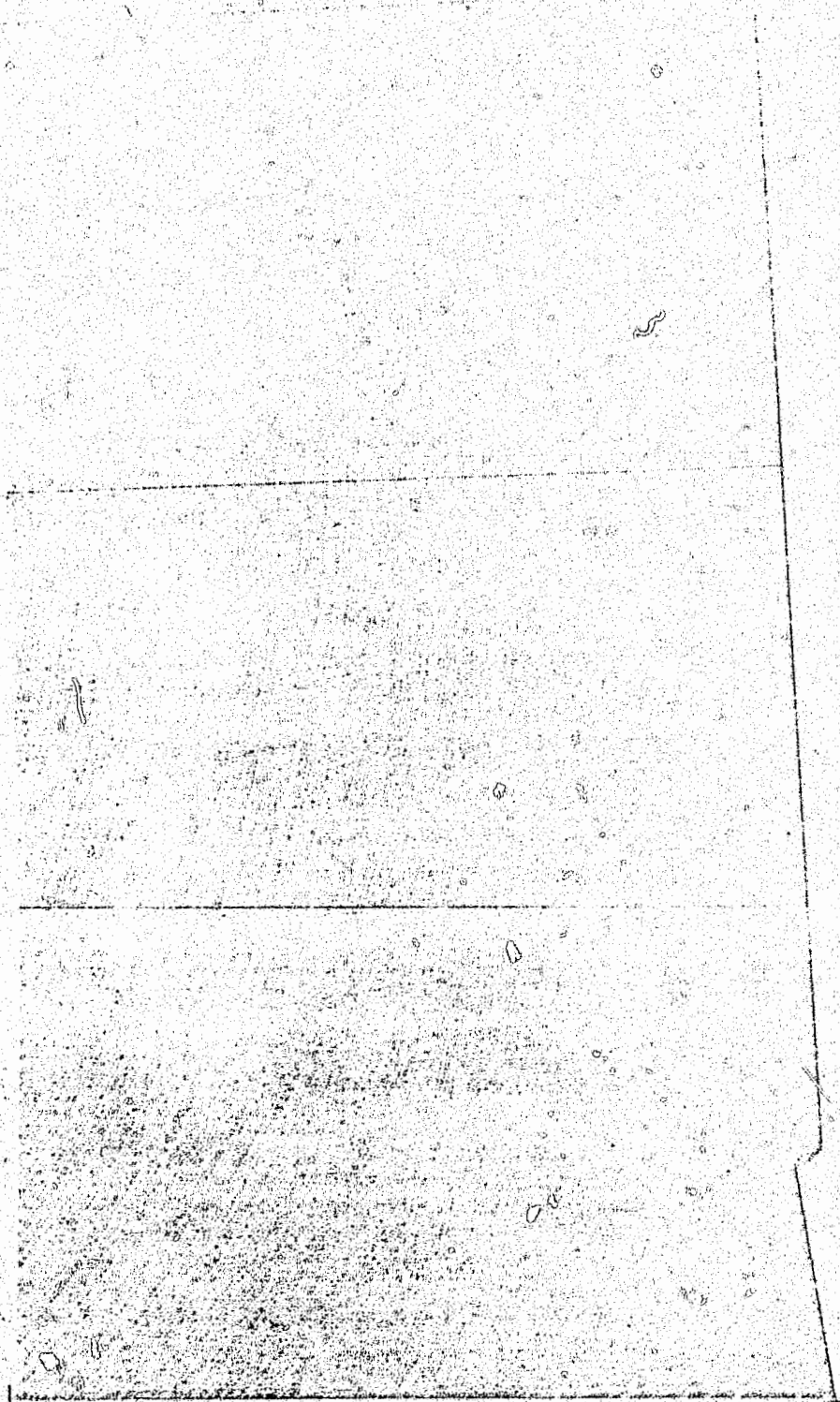

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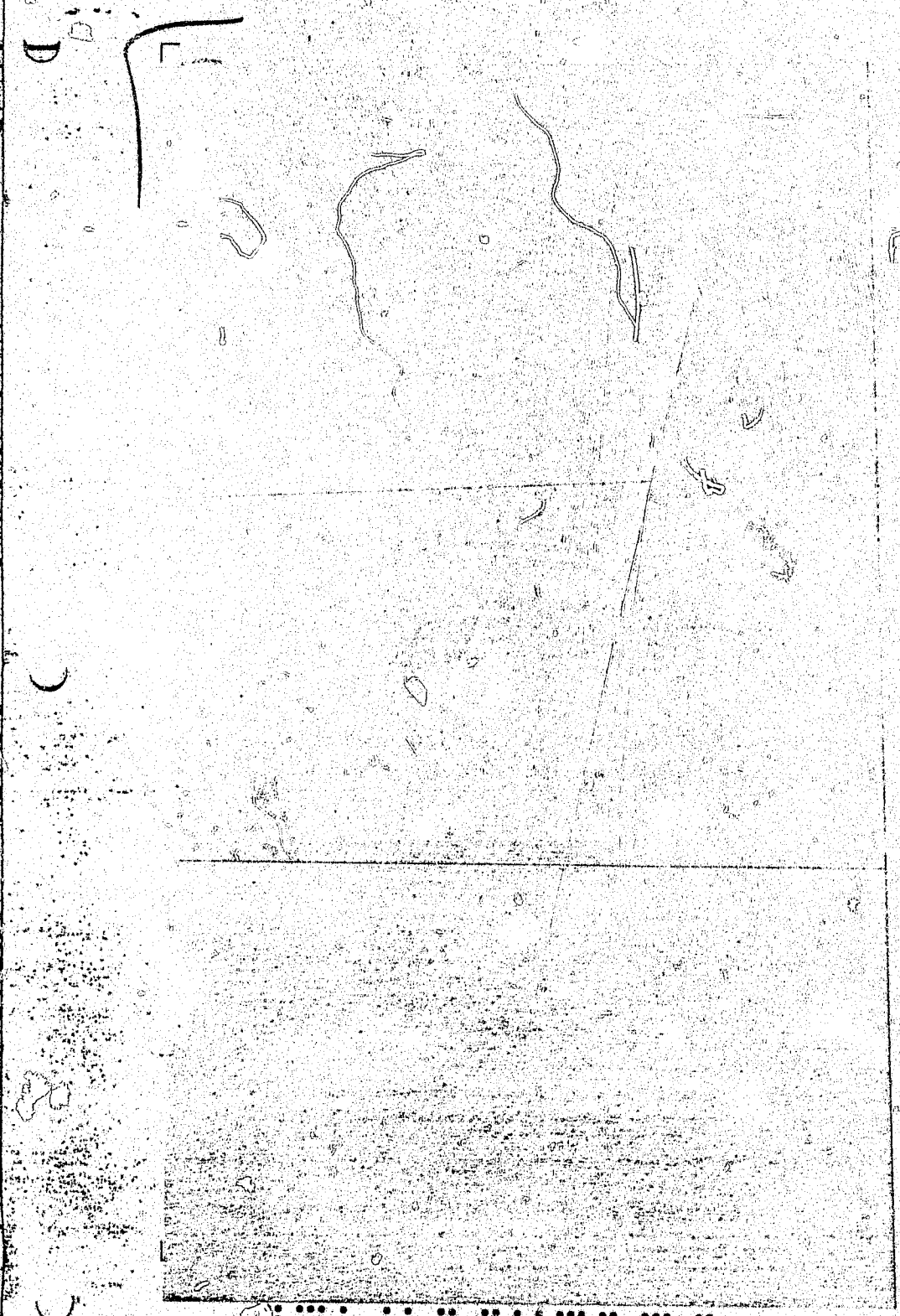

BRUCE

DB (Grant)

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Monday, December 17, 1973

In England, the Pound sank last week to 2.31 against the dollar, the lowest exchange rate, I believe, ever recorded. Prime Minister Heath has placed industry on a three day work week to save the dwindling fuel stock in Britain's gravest economic crisis since the nineteen thirties. Their one and a half billion dollar trade deficit for October and November was the worst in history. Communist trade union leaders remain obdurate against Governmental efforts to ameliorate the situation.

There are other disturbing portents of an almost global recession, bringing in its train continued inflation, rising unemployment, lower living standards. Many millions will have to learn again to walk. Stock markets everywhere are shak

HAK is peregrinating through the Middle East. He has wisely chosen Ellsworth Bunker to head our delegation at Geneva for the meeting commencing tomorrow.

Jean Lambert has tried to telephone me off and on in the last two days from Paris. We have been unable to establish an audible connection. I do not ascribe this to interception of our calls. When we finally have an Indian Ocean satellite, long distance telephoning will be much more efficient.

Young Paul Getty has been ransomed. He is back in Rome minus one ear. Kidnappings in Argentina are rampant. Murder in Detroit has set a new high. Undoubtedly there are some cases of violence and crime in China, but they are not publicly evident, and are tiny in proportion to population.

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schoolroom, cinema room, and other amenities in this city where so few of these facilities exist.

During the afternoon, E. and I briefly visited the Marine House, where our deservedly popular Marines were giving a Christmas party with gifts to hordes of children of many nationalities. The presents were passed on individually by a Canadian dressed as Santa Claus.

Some one has lent us a book by Howard Levin on the erotic significance of bound feet in China. This torture of females was prevalent for a thousand years; in remote country districts, it is said still to exist, but was generally abandone by the middle thirties, as was the wearing of pig tails.

It is easy to distinguish by their crippled hobbling women who had their feet bound--most of them are middle aged or ancients. One sees a considerable number of them in the Peking streets and parks.

The idea of a couple being elevated to a supreme degree of sexual excitement by the sight and manipulation of a three-inch distorted foot strikes most foreigne as being peculiarly exotic.

Sunday, December 23, 1973

High wind, Siberia still impinging on our comfort. E. to church with Jean and John Small, myself to the deserted office.

Couriers have staggered in, freighting bulky loads of letters and Christmas

We have unleashed a snow-storm of Christmas cables, amongst them one to Brother Jim on this his eighty-first birthday. Ellen Bruce is already 81.

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returned to us without comment. The South Vietnamese have announced the mounting of a rescue operation on humanitarian grounds, to pick up survivors of their sunken ship or ships. What will come of this we do not yet know.

The graver incident is the development of the Soviet espionage case. Much publicity has been given it in the Chinese press, also in official pronouncements. Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Yu Chan on Saturday, January 19, summoned Soviet Ambassador Tolstikov in the morning, to receive a note condemning the USSR Embassy for the espionage activities of its personnel in China, declaring personae non gratae First Secretary Marchenko and his wife, Third Secretary Semenov and his wife, and Kolosov, interpreter in the office of the Soviet Military Attache. The five persons involved were sent to the airport whence they left China that afternoon.

The note specifies about them: "On the evening of January 15, 1974, they made secret contact with Soviet-sent agent Li Hung-shu and another person in the outskirts of Peking, handing over and receiving intelligence, counter-revolutionary documents, radio transmitter and receiver, communication time-table, means of secret writing, forged border passes, and other facilities and money for espionage activities etc. They were caught on the spot by Chinese public security personnel and militiamen. With culprits and material evidence at hand, their crimes are conclusively established."

"It should be pointed out that over a long time some personnel of the Soviet Embassy in China, using various legal cloaks and abusing diplomatic privileges, have engaged in espionage in China under the direction of Soviet authorities, stealing secret intelligence and surreptitiously setting up counter-revolutionary organizations aimed at subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat in China. Their criminal activities have been most frantic."